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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Ploetz et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Known

Filed: Not Yet Known

For: THRUST WASHER FOR A PLANETARY
GEARBOX

Group: Not Yet Known

Examiner: Not Yet Known

Our File: INA-PT167
(4240-18-US)

Date: January, 9, 2006

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to Applicants' Duty of Disclosure pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention the material cited on the enclosed PTO-1449 form. Copies of the cited documents are enclosed.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(ii), copies of the cited U.S. publications and/or patent documents have not been included.

The references cited in this Information Disclosure Statement were either listed in an International Search Report in the corresponding International Application or cited in the German Search Report from the original priority application, copies enclosed. Of the non-English language references cited in the International Search Report, DE 199 02 565, column 2, lines 3-13, was cited as Category Y (document of

particular relevance that places inventiveness or inventive step in question when considered with one or more additional documents) with respect to claims 1-6. The remaining non-English language documents cited in the International Search Report are listed as Category A (technological background).

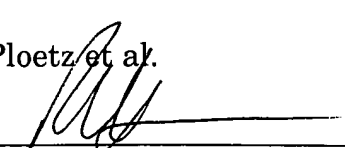
of the non-English language documents cited in the German Search Report, DE 44 18 693, Figure 1, was cited as Category Y with respect to claim 6. DE 35 02 076, Figures 1 and 2, was cited as Category Y with respect to claims 5 and 6. DE 198 04 734 was cited as Category A. DE 196 08 551, column 1, line 15, was cited as Category Y with respect to claim 4. DE 40 29 373, Figures 2 and 4 and element 19, was cited as Category Y with respect to claims 5 and 6. DE 40 09 968, Figure 1, was cited as Category Y with respect to claims 1 and 6. The DIN EN 10132-4 and DIN EN 10140 publications were both cited as Category Y with respect to claims 1-3.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider these documents and return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form indicating his consideration of the cited materials.

Respectfully submitted,

Ploetz et al.

By


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| FORM PTO-1449 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | | | | ATTY. DOCKET NO. INA-PT167 | | SEARCH NO. Not Yet Known | |
| | | | | APPLICANT Ploetz et al. | | | |
| | | | | FILING DATE Not Yet Known | | GROUP Not Yet Known | |

| U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------------|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | |
| | AA | 3,316,035 | 04/1967 | K. Zuber | | | |
| | AB | 5,064,298 | 11/1991 | Hibi et al. | | | |
| | AC | 5,928,100 | 07/1999 | Ohtake et al. | | | |
| | AD | 6,135,910 | 10/2000 | Urmaza et al. | | | |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS | | | | | | | | |
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| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION | | |
| | | | | | | YES | NO | |
| | AE | 706,128 | 03/1954 | Great Britain | | | X | |
| | AF | 1 015 278 | 12/1965 | Great Britain | | | X | |
| | AG | 1 433 890 | 04/1976 | Great Britain | | | X | |
| | AH | 2 034 827 | 06/1980 | Great Britain | | | X | |
| | AI | 35 02 076 | 01/1985 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AJ | 40 09 968 | 11/1990 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AK | 40 29 373 | 03/1992 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AL | 44 18 693 | 03/1995 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AM | 196 08 551 | 09/1997 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AN | 198 04 734 | 08/1998 | Germany | | | X | |
| | AO | 199 02 565 | 07/2000 | Germany | | | X | |

| OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) | | |
|--|-----------------|--|
| EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DESCRIPTION |
| | AP | DIN EN 10132-4: Kaltband aus Stahl für eine Wärmebehandlung, Teil 4, April 2003, Tab. 3. |
| | AQ | Din En 10140: Kaltband, Grenzabmaße und Formtoleranzen, Oct. 1996; Tab. 1,5. |
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| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.